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International community pledges \$2.485 billion to support development programs via the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund

On June 25, 2018, the Ministry of Finance and the World Bank jointly hosted the Steering Committee meeting of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) at the Presidential Palace, where 34 donor countries committed \$2.485 billion to support development programs laid out in the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) and National Priority Programs (NPPs) over the next three years.

The Steering Committee approved the ARTF's proposed [Partnership Framework and Financing Program \(PFFP\)](#) for the financial years 1397-1399 (2018-2020), which outlines how the government will spend those funds with support from international partners. Under the new PFFP, funding will continue to be provided for the priorities in the [Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework](#), introduced at the [2016 Brussels Conference on Afghanistan](#). The largest portion of ARTF funds, 37 percent, will be devoted to poverty reduction, service delivery, and citizen engagement, including programs in health, education, and the Citizens' Charter.

[Read the full story on our website here.](#)

[Visit this link to read the World Bank press release on the ARTF Steering Committee meeting.](#)



**'2018 will be the year of education reform':
President Ashraf Ghani**

[UNICEF and the Afghan Ministry of Education released a report](#) in June 2018 that estimates as many as 3.7 million children in Afghanistan remain out of school, a total of 43.7% of the primary aged population, with girls at all ages less likely to attend school than boys. However, the report also showed that once enrolled in school, drop out rates are very low.

“Many of the recommendations of this report appear in the current [National Education Strategic Plan](#). The report serves as an advocacy tool for harnessing the resources necessary for implementing our strategic vision,” said Minister of Education Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Shinwari.

During a celebration to mark the beginning of the school year in March, President Ashraf Ghani declared 2018 will be the ‘year of education reform’, with the Ministry of Education undergoing sweeping reforms. The Citizens' Charter will be engaged to reach more out-of-school children. The largest portion of newly-committed ARTF funds, 37 percent, will be devoted to poverty reduction, service delivery, and citizen engagement, including programs in health, education, and the Citizens' Charter.

"We commend the Government of Afghanistan for prioritising and declaring the year 2018 as the year of education. Now is the time for a renewed commitment to provide girls and boys with the relevant learning opportunities they need to progress in life and to play a positive role in society," said Adele Khodr, the UNICEF representative in Afghanistan.

[Read the UNICEF and Ministry of Education report here.](#)

[Read the National Education Strategic Plan here.](#)



Kabul Photo Biennale "Rebirth" | © Omer Khan

Reports from our Partners

The World Bank reviewed two government programs this month, including one of the most successful--the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program, administered through the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), and a teacher training program administered through the Ministry of Higher Education. Read the reports below:

[Boosting Entrepreneurship in Rural Afghanistan: World Bank on the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program](#)

World Bank, June 2018

[Better Teaching Transforms Afghanistan's Public Universities](#)

World Bank, May 2018

In the News

[Minster of Finance hands over the responsibility of the Ministry](#)

Ministry of Finance, June 26, 2018

[UNDP Support to Payroll Management Program Pays 87% of
Police Electronically](#)

UNDP, June 2018

[Creating Markets: Raisins Feed Afghanistan's Export Markets](#)

IFC, June, 2018

[President Ashraf Ghani's response to the SIGAR report on anti-
corruption reforms](#)

Afghan Embassy in Washington DC, June, 2018

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